which must be in possession of most W. I. plants already, to make a general subscription for my collections, and any specimens they may require to complete their herbaria, I shall be only too glad to offer them in consideration for their kindness in determining my plants.

I shall therefore readily consider the subscription made by Prof. Olivier on behalf of Kew to Dr. Wawra for a set of the Phan. and Cryptogam. plants of my W. I. collections as now existant, and shall inform my correspondent in Germany, who is distributing my plants, of the fact.

I hope your stay in Europe may give you all the satisfaction, you can desire, and also, that on your return to America you will not fail to reconsider the plan of visiting the Westindies, which may be done with very little inconvenience at present, as there is excellent steam communication by Royal Mail Co. to most of the islands, and also steam to the U. S.

I am, my dear Doctor, yours very truly

Eggers

St. Thomas, W. I. 14 Jan. 1887

My dear Doctor Gray!

I am very much obliged indeed for your kindness in so soon answering my letter as well for the interest you continue to show in my work here, I am only afraid of adding too much to your occupations by thus frequently addressing you and asking your advice on my botanical explorations.

The enclosed letter from Sir J. Hooker in a great measure relieves me from any concern with regard to the determination of new or doubtful species, as he kindly offers to receive my specimens and have them named in Kew as far as possible from the collections of W. I. plants existing there. I have to-day written to Sir Joseph to thank him for his offer, which I am only too glad to accept for all my plants, with the exception of the few families already disposed of to some continental specialists.

I propose to send my yet undetermined Dominica plants, most of which I am not able to determine from Grisebachs Flora, together with some few others to Kew next month already. Although the late estimable Dr. Imray had collected most Dominica plants, yet as he himself told me, there must still be an extensive number of species undiscovered in that island, where he had found no less than 29 species found no-wheres else as yet. Some of my plants are from the boiling

lake region, where Dr. Jurny had never been, so that it is not unlikely, some of them might turn out to be new.

Here in St. Thomas I have besides the new Cocculus, which Dr. Warming in Copenhagen will soon publish as C. Crecta, lately found a shrub, which seems to be a kind of vaccinium, at all events an Ericacea, which seems somewhat remarkable, having been found in a hight of only 900' on the top of a small wooded mountain or hill.

From Dr. Eaton I lately received a set of Dr. Garbers plants, 143 species, nearly half of which are found here too as was to be expected. I am sorry, Dr. G.'s health did not permit him to collect more extensively, as there no doubt is a rich field to be explored in that island.

Mr. Curtiss in his second letter to me put the following two conditions for coming out to collect for me, viz: that I should guarantee him employment at the salary agreed to for 2 years, and that he should be allowed to collect all species, also those, which had been collected here in St. Thomas already. As in the first case I do not feel myself warranted to promise him continuous employment for that time, having to defray all expenses out of my own pocket, and being unaided by any public grant, I could not agree to that, promising however to employ his services, the value of which I fully appreciate, as long as subscribers were willing to take the sets. In the second case I cannot think it reasonable to receive over again 4-500 species, which with much less trouble and expense may be gathered here on the spot.

The plants collected in these island comprising most W.I. plants in common to the greater parts of the islands, the further collections will necessarily increase in interest, as they will comprise plants only, which are comparatively rare or even restricted to a few or one of the islands only.

I explained these facts to Mr. Curtiss but have not as yet received his answer. I proposed to furnish him with a set of the plants collected here already for reference so that he might avoid collecting them in the other islands.

I need hardly say that I should feel sorry if I do not succeed in securing Mr. Curtiss's services, but I could hardly agree to the two conditions mentioned above, although I am quite aware, that Mr. C. on his part may have strong reasons to wish me to agree to them, as he could hardly run the risk of stopping work after a short time. The last point I think he might without much inconvenience agree to according to my views.

Meanwhile I continue exploring these islands and to prepare for going to Portorico next month, as the Windward islands for the present are shut against us on account of quarantine. I propose going to the eastern, mountainous part of Portorico, the Luquillo mountains, where I expect to make a rich collection.

I do not of course expect an establishment like Kew